MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

FIRST SESSION OF THE SECOND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT, 1935.

Volume II (Nos. 1-23).

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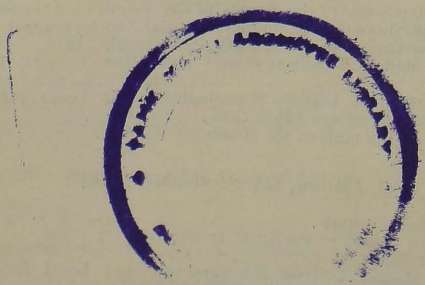

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Hon. Minister has been speaking elsewhere. May I know whether he realises that his scheme of regional languages adversely affects a particular community whose language is Urdu? ''

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—''No, Sir.''

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—''Do the Government propose to take over the management of aided schools under private management and introduce compulsory primary education in those areas? ''

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—''It does not arise out of this question.''

K. M. SEETHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—''Will the Government publish their proposals regarding reorganization of education for public criticism before passing final orders on them? ''

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—''We will do one better. We will publish these points of reorganization and take public opinion before passing orders.''

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—''Has the Hon. Minister for Education read the reply given by the Hon. the Premier with regard to the medium of instruction the day before yesterday and has he anything to say with regard to that matter? ''

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—''I am absolutely at one with the Hon. the Premier.''

Compulsory study of Hindi and introduction of the same as the medium of instruction in all schools.

*47 (108) *Q.*—H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the study of Hindi or Hindustani is compulsory in all schools; and

(*b*) whether it is the aim of the Government to make Hindi or Hindustani a common language in the Province and introduce it as the medium of instruction common to all schools, in the place of English?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—(*a*) & (*b*) Proposals to introduce Hindi in Schools is under consideration of the Government.''

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—''Do the Government propose the mother-tongue to be the medium of instruction instead of the regional language.''

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—''The regional language is the mother-tongue of most of the people of the region.''

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—''May I ask the Hon. Minister not to make such categorical and sweeping assertions and may I ask him to place his hand on his heart and

find out whether there are not a large number of people belonging to the Muslim community who speak Urdu in the Telugu area? ''

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—''No, Sir. My information is that a majority of the Muslims in the Tamil districts speak Tamil in their homes, the majority of Muslims in the Telugu districts speak Telugu in their homes and the majority of Muslims in Malabar speak Malayalam in their homes.''

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—''Your information is wrong.''

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—''May I ask the Hon. Minister to verify the fact, the absolute and categorical fact, that almost all the Muslims in the Andhra Desa have Urdu as their mother-tongue? ''

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—''No, Sir.''

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—''May I ask him to *verify* the fact? ''

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—''That is my information, Sir. If there is anything different from that I would like the hon. Member to give that information.''

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—''I am giving that information.''

SRI B. ANANTACHAR:—''Is the Hon. Minister aware that Urdu is a compulsory language in the schools in the Nizam's Dominions, even where the mother-tongue of the pupils is Telugu or Mahrati? ''

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—''We are not discussing the policy of the Nizam's Government.''

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—''May I ask whether the Hon. Minister is aware that the statement he has made is wrong? ''

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—''If the information I have got is wrong, I should say that the information given by the hon. Member also is wrong.''

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—''May I ask, Sir, whether it is proper for the Hon. Minister to treat hon. Members on this side in the light manner in which he has done? '' (Cries of 'order, order'.) ''Where does 'order, order' come in? It is a very serious matter.''

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—''May I know the answer which the Hon. Minister has just given to the question whether he would verify the fact that Urdu is the mother-tongue of the Muslims in the Andhra Desa? ''

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THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"If the hon. Member has information different from ours, we will enquire."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"It is not a question of information. It is a fact."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"Will the Government allow the pupils to learn in their own mother-tongue?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"The regional language is mostly the mother-tongue."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"Is the Government aware that there are persons living in regions where the regional language is not their mother-tongue?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"If there are many such children in a school and if the school is prepared to impart instruction in the mother-tongue of these students, we have no objection."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"What should be the strength of such students?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"The schools know that."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"The Hon. Minister has come down. He has stated that he is prepared to permit the opening of special schools or classes if there were a sufficiently large number of students in areas where the regional language is different from the mother-tongue of the students. On the same analogy, may I ask him whether if he found that in the Andhra districts there are a large number of Muslim students, whose mother-tongue is Urdu, he will be prepared to provide education for them through the medium of Urdu?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"There is no climbing down. Orders have been passed with respect to Madras City that if in any school there is a large number of Malayalam students sufficient to make up a class and if they wanted instruction through the medium of Malayalam and if the schools take the responsibility of imparting instruction through that language, there will be no objection to it."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"My question was with reference to Muslim students in the Andhra districts with Urdu as their mother-tongue. Will the Hon. Minister kindly answer that question?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Let me first get a representation from any school that there are a sufficient number of Muslim boys who want to be instructed through the medium of Urdu."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Does the Hon. Minister know that to-day in the Andhra Desa the medium of instruction in Muslim schools is Urdu?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"No, Sir."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"He is ignorant." (Laughter.)

Short Notice Question.

Threatened strike notice of the scavengers in the Madras City.

* 48 (269) *Q.*—SRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have taken any action to avert the threatened strike of the city scavengers; and

(*b*) if so, whether the Government can let the House know what it is?

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI—"(*a*) It is for the Corporation of Madras to take necessary action.

"(*b*) The question does not arise."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it a fact that the Corporation has asked for a loan or a half grant from the Government in the matter?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"I am not aware."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it a fact that the Hon. Minister for Local Administration promised Rs. 2 to the scavengers without previously consulting the Commissioner and that precipitated the strike?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"No information."

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is the Hon. Minister for Public Health aware of the consequences of the threatened strike and may I ask whether steps will be taken to avert it?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"Yes, Sir. The Government are aware of the consequences that may arise out of the threatened strike and the Commissioner of the Corporation is already negotiating with the strikers, i.e., those who have sponsered the strike with a view to coming to an amicable settlement."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Hon. Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether he promised to grant Rs. 2 increase without asking the Commissioner?"

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—"No, Sir."

DR. S. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:—"Will the Hon. Minister for Local Administration say whether it is not true that in some municipalities dearness allowance is not paid and that is the cause of strike in these municipalities?"

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—"(. . .)."

MR. SPEAKER:—"We shall pass on to the next item in the Agenda."

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THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"Iddly is an article of food and people appreciate eating it and priority may be given." (Laughter.)

SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister is aware that owing to perpetual famine in the Ceded districts, there is a very high death-rate and if so, whether she would take early steps to set right matters?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"I am not aware of the fact that the death-rate is very high in the Ceded districts; however, Government will certainly consider the suggestion."

Instruction in schools through the medium of the mother-tongue.

* 108 *Q.*—H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state what the arrangements are for imparting instruction in schools through the medium of the mother-tongue to those students whose mother-tongue is other than Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kanarese?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"These pupils are allowed to be taught wherever possible through their mother-tongue."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know what the mother-tongue of the Muslims of this Province is according to the Government?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"The mother-tongue of the Muslims is the mother-tongue of the locality wherever they are—in some parts it is Tamil, in some parts it is Telugu and in some other parts, I understand, their mother-tongue is Urdu."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Arising out of the answer given by the Hon. Minister, may I know, what exactly he means by saying 'wherever possible'?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"It means the Government must be in a position in view of the numbers and other conveniences necessary, it must be possible for them to provide this education."

KUMARARAJA SIR MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Arising out of the supplementary, may I ask whether the Hon. Minister is not aware that the mother-tongue of the Muslims is Urdu?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"The mother-tongue of a few Muslims in Andhra is Urdu."

MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Has not yet the Hon. Minister ascertained the fact that the mother-tongue of all the Muslims in Andhra desa is Urdu?"

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THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"No. I have recently received reports from Andhra desa that the mother-tongue of some Muslims there is not Urdu."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, from the Hon. Minister whether he has not found it possible to thoroughly examine the question and tell us exactly whether it is not a fact and God's truth, that all the Mussalmans in Andhra desa speak Urdu and their mother-tongue is Urdu?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I do not think I have anything more to say in the matter."

D. ABDUL RAWOOF SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know from the Hon. Minister whether these protests which he referred to came from the Muslims of the Andhra districts or from non-Muslims?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Mostly from non-Muslims."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"When it is the opinion of the acknowledged spokesmen of the Muslims that Urdu is the mother-tongue of the Muslims of Andhra desa, will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to confess that his understanding is a misunderstanding?" (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Opinions do not change facts."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I enquire in what language Muslim students are being taught in Andhra-desa?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"In Muslim schools, they are taught in Urdu, I understand; but in schools where the majority of the students are Hindus and there are only a few Muslim students, they are taught in the regional language."

MUHAMMAD HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is the Government determined to decide the mother-tongue of Muslims by the opinion of non-Muslims?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"They do not judge on the opinions of anybody."

SRI A. SATHYANARAYANARAJU:—"మన రాష్ట్రంలో పాఠశాలలలో సంవత్సరాల తరబడి గాంధిగారు మొరపెట్టుచున్న హిందూస్థానీ భాషను బోధించే విషయంలో ప్రభుత్వంవారు ఏమివిధాన్లు చేయతలచుకున్నారు. ఆ విషయం ఎంతలోయున్నది తెలుపగోరుతాను."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The question does not arise out of this question."

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BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"In places whether the regional language is other than Urdu, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of opening common classes for Muslims either in Urdu or in English?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"The question has already been answered and I have nothing more to add to what has been said."

MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"From the fact that Muslim schools in Andhradesa have got Urdu as the medium of instruction, does not the Minister know that Urdu is the mother-tongue of the Mulims of Andhradesa?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I do not think I can add anything more to what I have already said."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Hon. the Minister for Education take it that it is the very essence of culture to respect the cultures of other communities?" (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"It does not arise out of this question, Sir."

SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—"May I ask whether the Hon. Minister is aware that there are a number of Telugu Pandits among Muslims and one such Muslim Telugu Pandit was actually working in the Municipal High school, Nandyal?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Quite possible."

Pay of pandits in Government schools.

* 109 *Q.*—MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the scales of pay of pandits working in Government schools and colleges are far below the scales of pandits working under the local boards even though they possess the same qualifications?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Yes, the matter is under consideration."

Increase of the sanctioned strength of buses.

* 110 *Q.*—MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Motor Transport and Food be pleased to state whether in view of the all-round increase of traffic the Government propose to increase the sanctioned number of buses in all routes in this Province?

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"The number of buses will be increased as and when adequate number of vehicles become available."